

Southwest Resource Advisory Council Oil and Gas Sub-group Minutes

Nov. 19, 2015 @ Dolores, CO

Welcome and Introductions-Kathleen Bond, meeting facilitator, opened the session at 10:10 a.m. The agenda was distributed at the sign-in table. Kathleen provided the following ground rules:

1. Be respectful
2. One person speaks at a time
3. Limit side conversations
4. Don't get personal
5. Silence cell phones

Southwest Colorado RAC oil and gas sub-committee members present: Ernie Williams (SW RAC member), Eric Sanford (SW RAC member), John Reams (SW RAC Chairperson), James Dietrich (SW RAC member), Carla Hoehn (Triad Western Constructors), Pete Eschallier (Kokopelli Bike and Board), Christi Zeller (La Plata Energy Council), Jimbo Buickerood (San Juan Citizens Alliance), Dale Davidson (Southwest Canyons Alliance), George San Miguel (Mesa Verde National Park), Matt Thorpe (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), Rod Oliver (landowner), James Lambert (Montezuma County Commission), Brad White (landowner).

Members absent: Gregg Dubit (user group), Travis Ward (user group), Gwen Lachelt (La Plata County Commission), Dan Huntington (landowner).

BLM staff & SW RAC members present: Connie Clementson (Tres Rios Field Office Manager), Justin Abernathy (Tres Rios Assistant Field Manager), Ryan Joyner (BLM physical scientist), Barb Sharrow (Acting Southwest District Manager), Shannon Borders (Southwest District public affairs specialist), Tyler Fouss (BLM ranger), Deborah Gangloff (SW RAC member).

SW RAC Chairman John Reams explained this is a RAC sub-group meeting and the members are not here to make decisions, but rather to gather information regarding the need for a Master Leasing Plan (MLP). The sub-group is responsible for carrying the ideas to the 15-member Southwest RAC, which can make recommendations to the BLM and Department of the Interior. He encouraged everyone to read the MLP Area of Interest handout provided by the BLM staff. He said the next four meetings will include input from the public. Today, public comments begin at 11 a.m.

Oil and gas sub-group chair Ernie Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained he's looking forward to hearing ideas so the BLM can move forward. He hopes the sub-group can pinpoint a commonsense approach using public input. He also acknowledged both the need for oil and gas development and that there are places drilling shouldn't take place.

Eric Sanford clarified that the sub-group was nominated by the SW RAC to use public input to provide recommendations to the SW RAC. The full RAC may provide a resolution to the BLM based on the sub-group's recommendations. The BLM can choose how they will utilize this advice; the SW RAC is an advisory council and does not have authority over BLM decisions. He encouraged the group to look at

the Tres Rios Resource Management Plan (RMP) and how it influences the process. He wants to look at the other tools available, such as Controlled Surface Use and No Surface Occupancy stipulations, etc. He also wants the group to look at the cost benefit analysis.

Dale Davidson asked for numbers on the oil and gas activity. He said he knows there's leasing in the Hesperus area, but would like further insight. Kristi Zeller (La Plata County energy council) said there's one federal well in this area.

James Dietrich explained the group is also responsible for public education, and this is a great opportunity to provide the public with information. He represents dispersed recreation on the RAC and knows this is important to the public. He said numbers matter, so oil and gas potential in the area is key to the analysis. Kristi Zeller said Montezuma County contains about 53 wells, mostly federal and tribal; and La Plata County contains about 3,338 wells, mostly tribal.

Connie Clementson provided a brief history of how the MLP process evolved:

The issue first came to the BLM's attention when it issued the Supplement to Draft San Juan Resource Management Plan in 2011, which updated the oil and gas portion of the plan. This was just after the BLM had implemented a leasing reform policy in 2010, providing direction on Master Leasing Plans and when to do them.

The BLM received public comments recommending completing an MLP for the planning area (specific to the area that encompassed the Gothic Shale supplemental analysis). As a result, the BLM included a master leasing analysis in the Final EIS in 2013. The analysis looked at MLP criteria for the three geologic basins that were being considered for leasing within the RMP.

Concurrent with this process, Tres Rios Field Office updated its leasing process (also per the 2010 leasing reform direction) in 2012. The parcels proposed for leasing in 2012 included approximately 11,000 acres in the Hesperus area, which the BLM analyzed in its RMP MLP analysis. This triggered renewed interest from the public in a MLP. The BLM deferred the lease parcels in 2012 and 2013, anticipating the issuance of the new RMP. However, a decision was not issued until the February 2015 approval of the RMP. Public interest continued and expanded to the Mesa Verde area (in Montezuma County) after the decision was issued.

Based on continued interest in the area, the State Director is looking at what additional issues the BLM may need to consider that were not addressed in the RMP or that cannot be addressed through the lease sale process.

Justin Abernathy said the BLM is collecting information to get a better sense of public needs and interests as well as key issues. Then, the BLM will look at the tools available within the RMP, policies, regulations and laws to determine whether a MLP is needed.

Ryan Joyner gave an overview of the maps of the area of interest boundary. To download maps, go to http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Resources/racs/swrac.html.

Ernie Williams asked if the BLM could depict the areas open to recommendations and indicated that the BLM does not have jurisdiction on private land/private minerals. Ryan Joyner said the Surface Ownership by Agency map shows this, and it does not include Forest Service lands. Eric Sanford mentioned this is not an allocation process, and stipulations and conditions of approvals could be used to inform the MLP process.

Jimbo Buickerood suggested asking the public to identify their interests and concerns on maps. He's heard concerns about water, recreation and critical winter habitat. Christi Zeller asked the BLM not to use acronyms in documents and on maps and suggested providing the group with the MLP criteria and pages 112-113 to help explain what No Surface Occupancy means. Additionally, James Dietrich would like a recreation map that shows public interaction and recreation resources.

Public Comments

Marianne Mate

Marianne Mate lives in Dolores and thanks the BLM for being open to this process. She's concerned by how close the area of interest is to Dolores and about potential contamination to the Dolores River. She said the existing leases could go on for another 30 years and is also concerned about the amount of water required for drilling. She also said democracy is a messy process and we're not going to agree, but we need to get facts on the air problems in the area.

Ashley Korenblat (written comment – see attachment)

MB McAfee (written comment – see attachment)

Ellen Foster (written comment – see attachment)

Fiona King (written comment – see attachment)

Vanessa Mazal

Vanessa Mazal encourages the sub-group to review the public comments and distill those for details that can give the sub-group guidance. She mentioned other agencies in the area have been through similar processes, and those agencies should be involved too. She also encouraged the BLM to swiftly consider the MLP.

Stan Mattingly

Stan Mattingly lives in the Cedar Mesa subdivision. He wants to know if his property, adjacent to BLM, is available for lease. He also wants to know if the sub-group will consider impacts to private property, and he said this needs to be addressed in the MLP. He would also like timing limitation information.

Matthew Sheldon (written comment – see attachment)

Jane Anderson (written comment – see attachment)

Pat Kantor

Pat Kantor is a resident of the county and very concerned about the future of the county and the

people. In making decisions, she said the sub-group needs to consider the current mining technology and county economics. She said 27,000 people depend on the quality of water in the Dolores River, and we have to be cautious in the case of any mining activities.

Willson Bloch (written comment – see attachment)

Anne Greenburg

Anne Greenburg said she has been involved in the leasing of 12,000 acres. She brought her daughter to show how decisions affect her generation and future generations' health. She said that when considering the MLP, the group needs to account for increased semi traffic, effects to hydrology and issues causing cancer in children.

Diane Wren (written comment – see attachment)

Micha Rosenoer

Micha Rosenoer said public lands are for everyone, and we have a special opportunity to protect these areas. She encouraged the sub-group to leave time for questions and answers during the agenda and suggests increasing the time allowed for public comments. She urged the BLM to reach out to the media to get the word out about the meetings and suggested hosting meetings in the evenings.

Eric Sanford noted that several members of working group representing La Plata County were not present. He asked that the BLM contact La Plata County to recommend people for the unfilled positions.

Suggestions for upcoming meetings:

- Clearly define expectations of the sub-group
- Define scope of the working group
- Review the guidance in the RMP
- Question and answer forum
- Create a survey that links the public's concerns to specific areas
- Utilize county GIS data
- Provide public comment section on the BLM website
- Provide resource list on website
- Provide FAQ on website
- Draw from the Moab MLP process to gain insight

A Doodle Poll will be distributed to the sub-group to determine schedules for the 2016 meetings in Mancos, Hesperus, Durango and Cortez.

Meeting adjourned.

Asley Korenblat



Ms. Connie Clementson
Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management
Tres Rios Field Office
29211 Highway 184
Dolores, Colorado 81323

Dear Ms. Clementson,

We are writing today to thank you for considering a Master Leasing Plan (MLP) in the Tres Rios area. We appreciate the time and professional energy that both the BLM, and many volunteers involved, have invested in this process.

In Moab, Utah, the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) and our local chapter, the Moab Mountain Bicycling Association, have been involved in the Moab MLP that is nearing completion. This MLP has allowed us to work directly with local stakeholders in the area, including the major lease holder, to determine where recreation is appropriate and where oil and gas development is needed. This acre by acre conversation was extremely productive, and we believe the MLP process can bring tangible benefits to communities that depend on multiple use landscapes.

IMBA members and staff work with many gateway communities around the country to create and maintain trails of all types and for this reason we are looking forward to working with the Southwest Colorado Cycling Association to participate in a Tres Rios MLP. The Phil's World Cycling Trails are an important recreation asset in the region, and we believe we can maintain the quality of the outdoor recreational experience at Phil's World and develop oil and gas in the area through the coordinated locally-driven approach that the MLP process provides.

The Tres Rios region is a growing area whose economy depends on many components that include both oil and gas and recreation. The recreation economy brings both visitors and quality of life recruits who are looking to settle in communities like Cortez, Mancos, and Dolores. These types of businesses can provide additional jobs in the region, making it possible for the youth of the area to access a variety of employment opportunities over the long term.

The MLP process allows the area to have the best of both the recreation economy and resource extraction by facilitating a detailed planning process that truly does optimize the public land in the region.

We urge you to begin the MLP process as soon as possible and we look forward to working with all stakeholders to meet the diverse needs of the local communities.

Best Regards,

Bruce C. Alt
Vice President, Government Relations
International Mountain Bicycling Association

Board of Directors
Southwest Colorado Cycling Association

Date: November 19, 2015

From: M. B. McAfee

Re: Public Comment – Master Leasing Plan for the Tres Rios Field Office of the BLM

Thank you for taking comments from local community members today. I will be brief. I understand that the first step towards the development of an MLP for parts of western La Plata County and a central portion of Montezuma County is to determine if the new Resource Management Plan offers necessary and sufficient guidelines for development of federal minerals in the area of the Gothic Shale Play. One of your first tasks will be to figure out the MLP boundary. I urge you to examine the available maps showing where the Gothic Shale Play is predicted, compared to the BLM's suggested map for this MLP. There is a larger area of concern than BLM has currently mapped.

I want to draw your attention to the words: Resource Management Plan. These words denote a general plan that serves as a guide for management of all the resources in the broad geographic area overseen by the Tres Rios Field Office of the BLM. An RMP is the high level response about how to meet BLM's formal mission: "To manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under the mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield." The RMP speaks to all uses and all resources. It contains broad and detailed language. It is noteworthy to point out that language in the RMP is largely permissive such as "may," rather than mandatory language such as "shall."

Let's look at the words, Master Leasing Plan. The word "master" suggests "optimum," "best," or "proficient." The word "leasing," in this context, is specifically about agreements and contracts regarding federal minerals, expressly oil and gas, which underlie our public lands. Their extraction is governed by BLM and the state of Colorado and is heavily influenced by the various industries that derive profit from their development. An MLP can yield a plan that speaks specifically and proficiently and details specifics of gas and oil development: where roads, well pads, pipelines shall be constructed to protect sensitive landscapes that hold important wildlife, cultural resources, and watersheds.

I'm going to share a small metaphor here. When my husband, Chuck, and I built our home, we started with high-level concepts – front door to the east, master bedroom to the south, curved walls on south and west. These became the detailed drawings for the builder to follow in the construction process. I think these plans were rather akin to an RMP. However, we needed something more like an MLP for the exact planning of the tenon and mortise joints of the curved walls.

In addition, the RMP process was extremely prescriptive regarding public input. There were only a few times during the 11 years it took for the plan to become final when public comment was invited. And, in the Record of Decision, many public comments had not been adequately addressed, including suggesting that an MLP be part of the RMP. The MLP process can include robust, helpful, and fruitful participation of local folks, in addition to those of you who sit on the Working Group. This is about our landscape – the places we see every day; it's about a landscape beyond compare. The MLP discussion is about reliability of what the landscape will be like for those who live here and others who may want to move here. It's about creating a plan that the oil and gas industry will be completely aware of before the mineral exploration and extraction begins. It can be a win-win for all of us.

Thank you.

M. B. McAfee

PO Box 7, 22277 Road 20, Lewis CO 81327

mbmcafee@fone.net 970-562-4477

TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE, MASTER LEASING PLAN, November 19, 2015

Public Comments by Ellen Foster, 25314 County Road T, Dolores, CO 81323 (970-261-3524)

I'd like to thank the BLM for reconsidering the need for a Master Leasing Plan. I hope your final conclusion will be that it is absolutely necessary.

BOUNDARY OF THE MLP

One of the charges of the Working Group is to recommend where the Boundary of the MLP should be.

My first inclination is to say that all of Montezuma County should be included in the MLP. I understand that the BLM's jurisdiction is only land where the minerals are federally owned. Between the Forest Service, Mesa Verde National Park, Canyons of the Ancients, Weber and Menefee Wilderness Study Areas, and private land with a split estate, that appears to be roughly 2/3 of the county.

As we've seen on the Canyons of the Ancients, when the rules became more strict, exploration and production moved to private land with split estate minerals along the edge of the Monument. And Pleasant View has become an industrial zone. I expect the same thing will happen all along the edge of the National Forest. The 1/3 of the county occupied by farms and ranches and residential areas will be vulnerable to the same industrial fate as Pleasant View.

The BLM map of the Gothic Shale Play identifies a wide area from Dove Creek to Dolores, to Cortez and Mancos. There was a time when shale oil and gas weren't profitable to produce. When directional drilling was perfected, things erupted in a frenzy of exploration and production that no one was ready for. Who knows when shale will be profitable again or what future technology might bring? Individual private land owners are looking for ways to protect themselves from the next wave of development. And they need help understanding what their rights are.

The same stipulations that apply to BLM surface should also apply to private surface split estates. The private surface owner would have the option to waive whichever provisions he chooses.

I know that legally, this is not a concern of the BLM. But it's a driving force behind opposition to oil and gas that's reaching a dangerous tipping point all across the country -- and here in Montezuma County, where our County Commission seems to be in favor of oil and gas on every single parcel of land, public and private. Quality of life for the people who live here must be given equal status with all of the other multiple uses recognized by the BLM. You can't look at BLM land in isolation. Especially in Montezuma County, where it's scattered among so much private land. Each parcel is impacted by its neighbor.

There's a major pipeline corridor that runs through private land, along the east side of Highway 491. It passes between Narraguinnep and McPhee Reservoirs, then it crosses Highway 184 at Road 25, and follows Highway 184 to Mancos. This corridor contains pipelines operated by Kinder Morgan CO2, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, Williams, and Mid-America. Do these pipelines have the capacity to move the increased production of Reasonable, Foreseeable Development? Or will an additional right-of-way across private land be required for an additional pipeline?

There's a significant amount of split estate land just west of McPhee with a high potential for drilling. BLM Parcel 7379 is being offered for lease in February 2016. It's less than a half mile from the Dam – that's less than 2600 feet.

The Bureau of Reclamation designed McPhee Reservoir and the Dam. They should be required to certify a safe distance – a buffer zone – where drilling, seismic activities and waste water disposal wells are prohibited.

As important as McPhee is to the economy of this county -- for agricultural water and drinking water, for camping, boating and recreation -- it should be protected in every way possible. Our obligations under the Colorado River Compact should also be considered. And the buffer zone along the Dolores River should be increased.

There should be absolutely no exceptions, modifications, or waivers allowed. Narraguinnep and all other reservoirs in the county should be given the same protections.

Water quality baselines must be established NOW. The interaction between drainages and watersheds should be examined and monitored to determine long-term cumulative impacts.

Stipulations in Exhibit H refer to "minimizing potential deterioration of water quality." The BLM should be acting to "prevent" the deterioration of water quality. Toxic chemicals should be identified and prohibited.

And this Working Group should include a member chosen to represent Water.

AIR

Air quality baselines must be established NOW.

Benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes are volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found as a result of oil and gas exploration and production. They have harmful effects on the central nervous system. These chemicals cannot be allowed to escape into the air we all breathe. Controlling methane and CO2 emissions is important because of their effects as greenhouse gases.

Monitors for all of these substances should be placed in multiple locations on the BLM, the San Juan National Forest, surrounding McPhee and Narraguinnep Reservoirs, and around Montezuma County to get an accurate picture of concentrations during different wind patterns.

The BLM must determine the cumulative health effects of people's exposure to the cocktail of chemicals in the air that are emitted by Kinder Morgan's CO2 unit, the Helium plant and Argon production in Dove Creek, the San Juan Power Plant, and the Four Corners Methane Hot Spot detected from space by NASA. A Health Impact Assessment is required.

The Federal Government receives a 12.5% mineral royalty from oil and gas leases. This money should be used in the area it was collected from to hire necessary staff and to buy monitoring equipment.

The BLM must also analyze the economic cost to the public and Montezuma County of dealing with adverse health effects, polluted air and water, and decreased property values.

Thank you.

November 19, 2015

My name is Fiona King and I'm a land owner and concerned citizen of Montezuma County. I would like to thank the BLM for initiating this Master Leasing Plan process and request that the scope and reach of the appointed working group be expanded to include multiple opportunities for public/community input into the MLP process.

One of my major concerns is that although the MLP seeks to address more thoroughly the environmental protections that the Resource Management Plan failed to address adequately; unless more funding becomes available to the BLM to actually inspect, enforce and monitor the extraction industry, it's usefulness will be castrated. How can the BLM permit oil and gas drilling on our public lands when it doesn't have the human resources to monitor it? Also the fact that all the regulations currently governing the Oil and Gas industry were written by the industry itself so as not to hamper or impede their activities is a systemic flaw in the democratic process that local communities must address. The MLP is a step toward a more inclusive community voice that I believe is paramount.

Fiona King
Cortez, Colorado



Borders, Shannon <sborders@blm.gov>

comments of concern about the proposed MLP

1 message

matthew sheldon <mbseldon@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 18, 2015 at 4:11 PM

To: sborders@blm.gov

Hi,

My name is Matthew and I am a citizen of the State of Colorado first and Montezuma County second. My deep concern has to do with all forms of mineral extraction, more specifically, what comes out of the ground during the process. What is done with "dirty water" is a county-wide issue, a state-wide issue and for that matter a national issue. I'm most concerned with the waste water that comes to the surface, is then, in many instances, pumped into tanker trucks, trucked to a dumping site-this could be a played out oil or gas drill site (as I understand) and then pumped back into the ground. I repeat, the contaminated water containing toxic matter is pumped back into the ground.

I do know that some more conscientious gas and oil companies are attempting to reuse/filter the polluted water, however, they appear to be in the minority of those in the extraction industry. As one Colorado BLM senior official put it, "Out of site, out of mind."

This way of thinking is just plain unacceptable to me. Perhaps underground polluting is part of the way the extraction industry does their work, but it is just plain wrong for obvious reasons. And if you have to wonder for very long what those obvious reason are then I would have to conclude that you are out of touch with you environment and perhaps reality.

*Sincerely,
matthew b. sheldon
Montezuma County resident*

Next month, the world's nations will meet in Paris for "the climate talks". However, even this initiative, resisted by many who hope to attain immediate pleasure from realized profits, at the expense of virtual eternal global hardship for all planetary citizens, will seemingly prove of little ultimate value. With an estimated 9.7 billion population projected for the year 2050, along with an expanding middle class within the developing world, what we can reasonably expect is an increase in global energy demand by 50%. The New York times columnist, Steven Koonin, has observed that "Even a 'heroic' 20 percent reduction in emissions, instead of the 3 percent now proposed, would delay the projected doubling of carbon dioxide concentration by just 10 years".

So, what to do? One strategy is to begin at the root of the problem; that is to say, to initiate a "radical" intervention. To do so, one must inquire as to the source of the problem. In seeking the findings of accurate and adequate research, we encounter the following report:

In August a report by EcoShift consulting, commissioned by the Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of the Earth, found that the remaining federal oil, gas, coal, oil shale and tar sands that have not yet been leased to industry contain up to 450 billion tons of potential greenhouse gas pollution.

In inquiring as to what has indeed, to date, been thrown open for national fossil fuel exploitation, as explicated by the above research group, the level of expansiveness of the problem starkly stands as follows:

As of earlier this year, 67 million acres (of) federal fossil fuel were already leased to industry, an area more than 55 times larger than Grand Canyon National Park containing up to 43 billion tons of potential greenhouse gas pollution.

And yet, the sobering conclusion of this research lays out a catastrophic scenario, foreboding devastation for all humans, rich and poor, alike:

The U.S. government has already leased decades' worth of federal fossil fuels — more than ever can safely be burned," said Spivak. (Public lands director at the Center for Biological Diversity) "Each new lease walks us closer to climate catastrophe.

The problem is that there exists a steady stream of fossil fuel emissions into the air, a peril determining that which we and our children breathe, and which will contribute to further greenhouse climate changing

conditions. Indeed, the question arises in the mind of sanity and integrity: "How can this steam be intercepted in the service of all forms of life on the planet?" The suggestion is offered within the Center for Biological Diversity's assessment of the Landmark Climate Bill - announced earlier this month within the United States Senate - as follows:

By ending new federal fossil fuel leases, the "Keep It in the Ground Act of 2015" would remove up to **450 billion tons** from the global pool of potential greenhouse gas pollution — an amount vastly greater than any reasonable U.S. share of the global carbon budget to avoid 2 degrees Celsius degrees of warming.

This group therefore stands before you, to advise as to policy regarding the master leasing plan, exclaiming in the name of the earth and all that reside upon it, imploring in the name of all life: "Fossil fuels: Keep it in the ground!" As Spivak has astutely exclaimed: "This legislation would end that dangerous policy while protecting our natural heritage of public lands, oceans and biodiversity."

It is our spiritual, moral, social, and political responsibility to terminate the lethal behavior of fossil fuel extraction, portending species wide suicide at its root, NOW!

James A. Mischke, M S W,

Professor Emeritus, Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work, Dine' College

Former Senior Academic Social Scientist, Navajo Nation

Information sources:

- **The New York Times**
- **Center for Biological Diversity**
- **Keep it in the Ground Act of 2015**

November 16, 2015

Bureau of Land Management
Southwest Colorado RAC, Oil and Gas Sub-Committee
C/o Shannon Borders, Public Affairs Specialist
2465 S. Townsend Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401

Submitted electronically: sborders@blm.gov

Dear Members of the BLM Southwest Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Oil & Gas Subcommittee,

I'm writing to voice my support for moving ahead with a Master Leasing Plan (MLP) in the Tres Rios Field Office that includes lands in eastern Montezuma and western La Plata counties. Having recently returned to permanently reside in Montezuma County after retiring from the National Park Service with 34 years of service, 8 of those at Mesa Verde National Park, I feel personally invested in the outcomes of the MLP process. While at Mesa Verde I managed the rehabilitation of park resources damaged due to the Chapin 5 Fire of 1996 and served as the park's Public Information Officer. I was also chosen to represent the NPS as a member of Leadership Montezuma, which gave insight and understanding of the economic, social and cultural aspects of Montezuma County.

Drawing on sound science and meaningful stakeholder input, MLPs create detailed frameworks for protecting sensitive resources that could otherwise be at risk from the unintentional impacts of industrial energy development, while guiding carefully planned future development. Some of the defining assets of our region that could benefit from an MLP include:

- * Views, air quality, and quality of experience within Mesa Verde -- a UNESCO World Heritage Site and national park that attracts 500,000 visitors per year,
- * The physical integrity of fragile, ancient artifacts and structures at Mesa Verde, as well as three historically-associated national monuments and thousands of Native American cultural sites;
- * A deeply-rooted farming and ranching industry and heritage;
- * Extensive natural resources that attract a growing outdoor recreation industry.

As both a community member and a former land manager, I believe that an MLP could help ensure that those characteristics are permanently protected, while providing guidance and assurance for future energy sector development.

As you are likely aware, the first MLP to address national park values was recently finalized in northwest Colorado, around Dinosaur National Monument. Another plan near Moab is underway. Both processes have provided opportunities for local communities to weigh in on where and how development should occur, vis à vis the recreational opportunities and landscape features that make these places unique and attractive. In doing so, they lay the groundwork for more diverse economic futures.

I encourage the RAC to accelerate its decision on pursuing an MLP, and to see a plan centered on Mesa Verde come to fruition. I look forward to remaining involved in this process.

Sincerely,

Jane Anderson
11822 Road 28.3
Dolores, CO 81321
720 810-7612


CC: Connie Clementson, Tres Rios Field Office Manager, cclementson@blm.gov

First, I must say that I am appalled that this county is willing to take "30 pieces of silver" for any of this land; yet, I see around me many of those who will be doing just that. The tax coffers bulge for a few short years, the politicians claim economic success, and the area gets fatter. Suddenly, the bottom falls out of the market, and then there's the lean years. The nomadic well drillers and their entourage flee the area, and the mess remains behind. Are these the jobs that we want for our community or would it make more sense to have an economy based on people who want to settle here and raise families? Allowing one industry to dictate to the residents what will be their course of mineral extraction and just what is acceptable in pollution and sanity sacrifices is not what I would call a democracy.

Are we willing to give our water to the fracking companies when the development of the average well uses more than 500 Million gallons of fresh water? And what happens seismically when the contaminated fluid is then injected back deep into the ground? What is the seismic limit of safety on the McPhee dam? If it fails, who will pay for the damage and repairs and the possible loss of life?

These and many other questions need to be answered before any leasing should be considered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willson C. Bloch".

Willson C. Bloch
40880 Road H
Mancos, CO. 81328
(970) 533-0722



November 18, 2015

Ms. Connie Clementson

Field Manager

Bureau of Land Management

Tres Rios Field Office

29211 Highway 184

Dolores, Colorado 81323

Dear Ms. Clementson,

We here in Montezuma County live in a truly amazing place. From the crown jewels of our region, Mesa Verde National Park and Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, to the world-class trail system at Phil's World, our community is truly fortunate to have so many great opportunities for outdoor recreation on our local public lands.

It is precisely because of these opportunities and the wild and natural beauty of our area that Osprey chose to locate our headquarters here. We value our public lands and everything they have to offer and take seriously the responsibility to steward these lands with a balanced approach for future generations.

The economies in the West have long been defined by the boom and bust cycle of oil and gas. Entire regions have been prisoner to the rise and fall energy prices. Thankfully, times have changed as our economy has diversified. Tourism and outdoor recreation have brought income, jobs, and more stability to our community. In Colorado alone, outdoor recreation generates \$13.2 billion in consumer spending and \$4.2 billion in wages and salaries. Here in Montezuma County, Osprey provides over 75 jobs that wouldn't exist without public access to our public lands. Mesa Verde National Park, as another example, generates \$50 million in direct spending for our region. These numbers are not only a significant boon to our towns, but are relatively immune to the insane rollercoaster ride of the oil and gas boom and bust cycle.





That is why we at Osprey support the creation of a Master Leasing Plan for America's public lands in Montezuma and La Plata counties. This approach will allow citizens and businesses like mine a voice in developing a road map to decide where and how oil and gas development will take place. Most importantly, diverse stakeholders will be able to work together to create a win-win plan for all parts of our local economy. The Tres Rios Master Leasing Plan will provide a bottom-up approach that involves meaningful community input in how our shared public lands are managed in our backyard.

We've already seen great stakeholder collaboration in places such as the South Park Basin near Colorado Springs and in Moab, where local government, water providers, sportsmen, conservation districts, and industry have all sat around the table to talk through places of agreement and disagreement. It's time we do the same here to plan for our future of long-term economic growth for our region.

Through the Tres Rios BLM office's current plan, over 90 percent of our regional BLM lands are open to oil and gas development. In fact, the current plan does not address controversial leasing proposals on lands within view of Mesa Verde National Park, or that could disrupt the experience at Phil's World. Without a Master Leasing Plan, these places could be irreparably damaged.

The MLP is a real way for all local stakeholders to have a voice for our future providing smart-from-the-start planning and a balanced approach so that our public lands can support recreation and tourism, as well as responsible energy development. The MLP process should leverage the wealth of knowledge in our community by creating opportunities for citizens, businesses, and other stakeholders to learn and act together, that way we can create a win-win plan that accounts for all parts of our local economy. Tourism and outdoor recreation are a huge driver of income, jobs, and taxes within Montezuma County. Risks to our public lands and environment are threats to our business community and to companies like Osprey that depend on local public lands to not only attract and retain top talent, but to maintain a market for the outdoor retail products we design and manufacture.

As one of the most prominent employers in Montezuma County, Osprey cares about the community we live in and we would welcome the opportunity to share and discuss our values and concerns. Now that we have a venue for collaboration, let's come together and work on balanced solutions for Southwest Colorado.

Best Regards,


Diane Wren

Owner

Osprey Packs Inc.





**Southwest Resource Advisory Council
Oil and Gas Sub-group
November 19, 2015
Dolores, CO**

Public Comment Form

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Comments: Big Picture!

It's very simple - we (as the human species) need to stop oil & gas extraction - really just stop. Instead we need to invest our brilliance, money, resources in developing solar and wind energy - BLM needs to take the lead in this and stop oil & gas extraction.